



# Press Release

For Immediate Release:  
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Six Nations Council



## Laminated Certificate of Indian Status Cards Still Accepted at U.S. Border

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OTTAWA (14/05/09) Indian and Northern Affairs Canada confirmed today that the current Certificate of Indian Status will be accepted at the American border for an unspecified period of time.

The United States Government recently informed Canada that a common sense approach will be taken and has decided to be flexible in accepting current Certificate of Indian Status cards from visitors coming by land or water.

During this period of flexibility, the laminated paper cards and the pilot cards will be accepted at the border.

How long this lasts is entirely up to the discretion of U.S. officials, said INAC spokesperson Patricia Valladao. American officials recognized that it was difficult to distribute all the new Secure Certificates of Indian Status by the June 1, 2009 deadline, she noted.

As of that date, everyone who travels by air to the U.S. must have a valid passport or a NEXUS card.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has approved the business plan for the secure status card. An INAC news bulletin stated that the customs and border authority is in the process of designating the card as an approved identification document under the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

The initiative was created after the U.S government enacted a terrorism prevention law in 2004.

Once the secure certificates are implemented nationally, they will be accepted by travelers coming by land and water into the U.S., said Valladao.

For regular card updates go to <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/br/is/scs/index-eng.asp>. Updates will also be posted on [www.sixnations.ca](http://www.sixnations.ca).

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